

## Department of Justice

## Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney Southern District of Indiana

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## PENDLETON MAN SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

## PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SCOTT HATFIELD, 32, Pendleton, Indiana, was sentenced to 84 months imprisonment Friday, May 22, 2009, by U.S. District Chief Judge David F. Hamilton following his conviction at trial February 10, 2009, for possessing child pornography. This was the result of an investigation by the Indiana State Police and Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

In February, 2007, Indiana State Police determined that HATFIELD had been trading images of known child pornography on the internet using Limewire, a software designed to efficiently trade any type of computer files. On the internet, individuals use Limewire most often to trade software, music, and images and videofiles of adult and child pornography. A search warrant served at HATFIELD's residence on March 19, 2007, uncovered numerous hard drives networked together because HATFIELD operated a home computer business. During an interview, HATFIELD identified which one of his computer towers contained child pornography and identified the search terms he had used to obtain his images. HATFIELD possessed approximately 58 videofiles of adults engaging in sexual acts with children, two of which were over 50 minutes in length. In addition to the 58 videofiles he made available for trading, HATFIELD also possessed a folder containing approximately 2700 images of a prepubescent girl, showing her clothed but posed provocatively.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <a href="https://www.projectsafechildhood.gov">www.projectsafechildhood.gov</a>.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Chief Judge Hamilton also imposed lifetime supervised release following HATFIELD's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, HATFIELD must not have any unsupervised contact with minor children without permission of the probation department and submit to search and seizure. HATFIELD was fined in the amount of \$1000.

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